

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /068 W

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R 230435Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7146
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 8514

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/-

TAGS: AS, PINT

SUBJECT: ALP LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE

REF: CANBERRA 8388

1. THE ALP'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS MET ON MONDAY DEC 22
AND DECIDED TO DEFER ELECTIONS FOR THE PARTY'S PARLIA-
MENTARY LEADERSHIP UNTIL JANUARY 27.

2. THE OSTENSIBLE REASON FOR THE DELAY WAS TO AWAIT
THE FINAL ELECTION RESULTS IN 5 DOUBTFUL DISTRICTS
WHERE ALP MEMBERS HAVE A CHANCE TO RETAIN THEIR SEATS.
AMONG THE 5 DOUBTFUL SEATS ARE THOSE OF CAPRICORNIA IN
QUEENSLAND HELD BY FORMER ALP MINISTER OF HEALTH
EVERINGHAM, ST. GEORGE IN NSW HELD BY FORMER ALP MIN-
ISTER OF DEFENSE MORRISON, AND CORIO IN VICTORIA HELD
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BY THE ALP'S FORMER SPEAKER IN THE LOWER HOUSE SCHOLES.

ALL THREE MEN WILL SEEK EXECUTIVE POSTS IN THE PARTY IF
THEY ARE IN FACT REELECTED AND THE CAUCUS DECIDED
TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME IN THESE ELECTORATES BEFORE
CHOOSING NEW LEADERS.

3. IN FACT, THE REAL REASON FOR THE DELAY WAS TO GIVE
PARTY ELEMENTS HOSTILE TO WHITLAM TIME TO ORGANIZE
THEIR FORCES.

4. AFTER THE MEETING WHITLAM INDICATED THAT HE WOULD
NOT STAND FOR THE LEADERSHIP IF FORMER ALP TREASURER
WILLIAM HAYDEN WOULD AGREE TO RUN FOR THE JOB. HAYDEN
HAS INDICATED PUBLICALLY THAT HE DOES NOT WISH TO RUN
FOR ANY EXECUTIVE POSITION IN THE PARTY. HE WISHES TO
SPEND MORE TIME BUILDING SUPPORT IN HIS ELECTORATE AND
USING HIS SPARE TIME TO OBTAIN A LAW DEGREE.

5. AS OF THIS TIME IT STILL APPEARS THAT WHITLAM WILL
STAND FOR THE LEADERSHIP AND WIN WITHOUT MUCH DIFFICULTY
ON JANUARY 27.

PERCIVAL

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